

such as the Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels, Bibb County Home Makers, Friends of the Ocmulgee Monument, Advisory Council for Neighborhood Health Care and President of the Fort Hill Neighborhood Association.

Her life and work are centered around providing the generous gift of hospitality. I congratulate her on all of her life long efforts to build better communities and help others. I want to recognize the positive impact she has made on the lives of so many people. Her work and her contributions are important, and I want to salute her as an outstanding citizen of Georgia's Eighth District.

OMNIBUS INDIAN ADVANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly object to H.R. 5528, The Omnibus Indian Advancement Act, because this bill does not protect Marin and Sonoma Counties in California from casino development.

Section XIV of the bill, which discusses the restoration of the Coast Miwok tribe in the Sixth Congressional District of California, rightfully restores the Miwoks' tribal status but does not protect Marin and Sonoma Counties from gambling. That is not acceptable.

In June, H.R. 946, The Graton Rancheria Restoration Act, my bill to restore the Miwoks' status and protect the community from casino development unanimously passed the House.

Now, in the last days of the session in the dark of night this hastily written omnibus bill that undoes the work of this House and does not protect my constituents is brought to the floor. In their effort to finish up their work for the year, the authors of this bill have hung Marin and Sonoma Counties out to dry and undone my work.

An act of Congress took away the Miwoks' status nearly 40 years ago. Now the Miwoks' need an act of Congress to restore their status and to provide them the health and education benefits they deserve.

By working with the tribe, the community and the House Resources Committee, I passed H.R. 946 that carefully balanced the needs of the Miwoks and the needs of the community. Under the bill I wrote and this House passed, everyone would have come out a winner.

Now, without notice, the other body has undone this House's strongly supported efforts on behalf of the Coast Miwoks.

If this bill becomes law, there will be nothing stopping the Coast Miwoks from building a Vegas-style casino in the rolling hills of Marin and Sonoma counties—no matter how much the community objects.

Under current federal law, Indian gaming is prohibited except in states, like California, that allow gambling. In those states, governors are obligated under federal law to negotiate a compact with any recognized tribe that wants to start gaming.

As everyone knows, federal law has precedence over state law in all circumstances. Therefore, without a specific federal prohibition against Miwok gaming, like the one contained

in my bill, H.R. 946, the Graton Rancheria Restoration Act, at any point the Miwok could set up gaming in the North Bay; all they would have to do is ask and the governor would be obligated to negotiate a gambling compact with them.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents strongly oppose gaming. As their representative, I strongly oppose this bill. The pressure to wrap up work for the session is no reason to ignore my communities' needs.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLLUTION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an article written by former Senator Robert W. Kasten, Jr. The Honorable Bob Kasten served in both the House of Representatives (1975–81) and the Senate (1981–93).

Mr. Kasten writes to remind us of the fact that the Federal Government is the largest polluter in the United States. He brings to our attention anecdotes from the states, which illustrate the states' difficulties enforcing local environmental laws on the federal government. He writes about the federal government's lack of accountability in cleaning up its own toxic waste sites and its attempts to push cleanup responsibility and costs to local levels of government and to private landowners.

According to a Boston Globe article last year, "federal agencies have contaminated more than 60,000 sites across the country and the cost of cleaning up the worst sites is officially expected to approach \$300 billion, nearly five times the price of similar destruction caused by private companies." In contrast, private Superfund site clean up is estimated at a fraction of the federal government at \$57 billion. The article goes on to say that the EPA Inspector General has found that, federal agencies are increasingly violating the law, with 27 percent of all government facilities out of compliance in 1996, the latest year figures available, compared to 10 percent in 1992.

Department of Energy and Department of Defense environmental clean up budgets are routinely last priorities in the appropriations processes. For example, this year I worked to cut construction funding in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the DOE's National Ignition Facility (NIF)—a bottomless money pit that the GAO has determined to be mired in waste and technological difficulties—and suggested that this funding be transferred to the DOE's waste management account, where I believe the money could be put to better use.

The final appropriations bill increased the Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management fund by \$490 million dollars. In comparison, the NIF project, which is 100 percent over budget and 6 years behind schedule, was appropriated \$130 million for FY 2001. The NIF boondoggle was granted nearly one-third of the total increase of the environmental clean up budget. Clearly the federal government has other agendas than the environment.

We need to look more closely at Federal Government's own environmental problems.

The State and Federal Government can work together to modernize environmental laws, streamline the bureaucratic process, and focus less on punishment and more on figuring out the best way to reach high environmental standards and compliance.

AMERICA'S LARGEST POLLUTER—GUESS WHO

(By Sen. Robert W. Kasten, Jr.)

Here is a question that really ought to be put to both the presidential candidates, but especially Vice President Gore, in the final weeks of the campaign: Can you tell us who the largest polluter in the country is? And—important follow-up—if you are elected president, what would you plan to do about this defiler of our planet's future?

The answer, as market environmentalist Becky Norton Dunlop notes in her forthcoming book, *Clearing the Air*, will surprise many Americans. It isn't Exxon, duPont, or even, with respectful apologies to Ronald Reagan, trees—although trees are, as Reagan said, a major source of certain "pollutants."

Rather, as Dunlop notes, the largest polluter in the United States is: the United States government. Federal vehicles are not only numerous, but, in many cases, don't meet federal clean air standards. Temporary bureaucrats who commute to major federal centers, especially in Washington, D.C., often do so in vehicles that aren't locally registered, and thus don't meet area pollution requirements.

There are even a large number of federally-protected toxic waste sites. And of course, the federal government's sorry effort to blame land-owners who didn't pollute for the chemicals put on their property by others is a major reason why the vast majority of Superfund sites around the country haven't been cleaned up.

Dunlop knows about federal pollution firsthand. As Secretary of Natural Resources for the state of Virginia from 1994 to 1998, she had to go to court against the Gore-Clinton Environmental Protection Agency to stop some federal agencies from polluting, or protecting polluters being harbored because they were federal contractors. For this, she won the ire of some extremists for whom environmentalism means not making the air, water, and soil cleaner, but expanding the federal government's ability to strong-arm states, cities, companies, and private citizens.

Even some environmentalists are starting to realize the irony, as Scott Harper of the *Virginian-Pilot* put it recently, that if you're looking for the biggest polluter of all, "it's government—the same authority that's supposed to protect the environment." The Boston Globe did a whole series on the issue of government pollution in 1999. This summer, USA Today did an expose on federal agency pollution dating back to the 1940s, a series that has led to Senate hearings this fall. But you don't have to go back to the history books to find federal polluting. It's going on right now, under the man supposed to be the environmental vice president, Al Gore.

Now, to be sure, one reason the federal government is the largest polluter is its sheer size. The federal government owns more vehicles, buys more products, employs more commuters, and does a lot of other things in much greater volume than any company. (That the federal government is so vast is, in itself, a comment on the state of our society; but that is a subject for separate discussion.)

But size isn't the only reason government pollutes so much. Far from it. A major contributing reason is that federal authorities frequently attempt to shift the expense for cleaning up their pollution to other levels of government, or to private landowners—allowing federal agencies themselves to continue polluting while blaming others.